6

RECORD OF
RAGNAROK
ART
AZYCHIKA
STORY
SHINYA UMEMURA
SCRIPT
TAKUMI FUKUI

6

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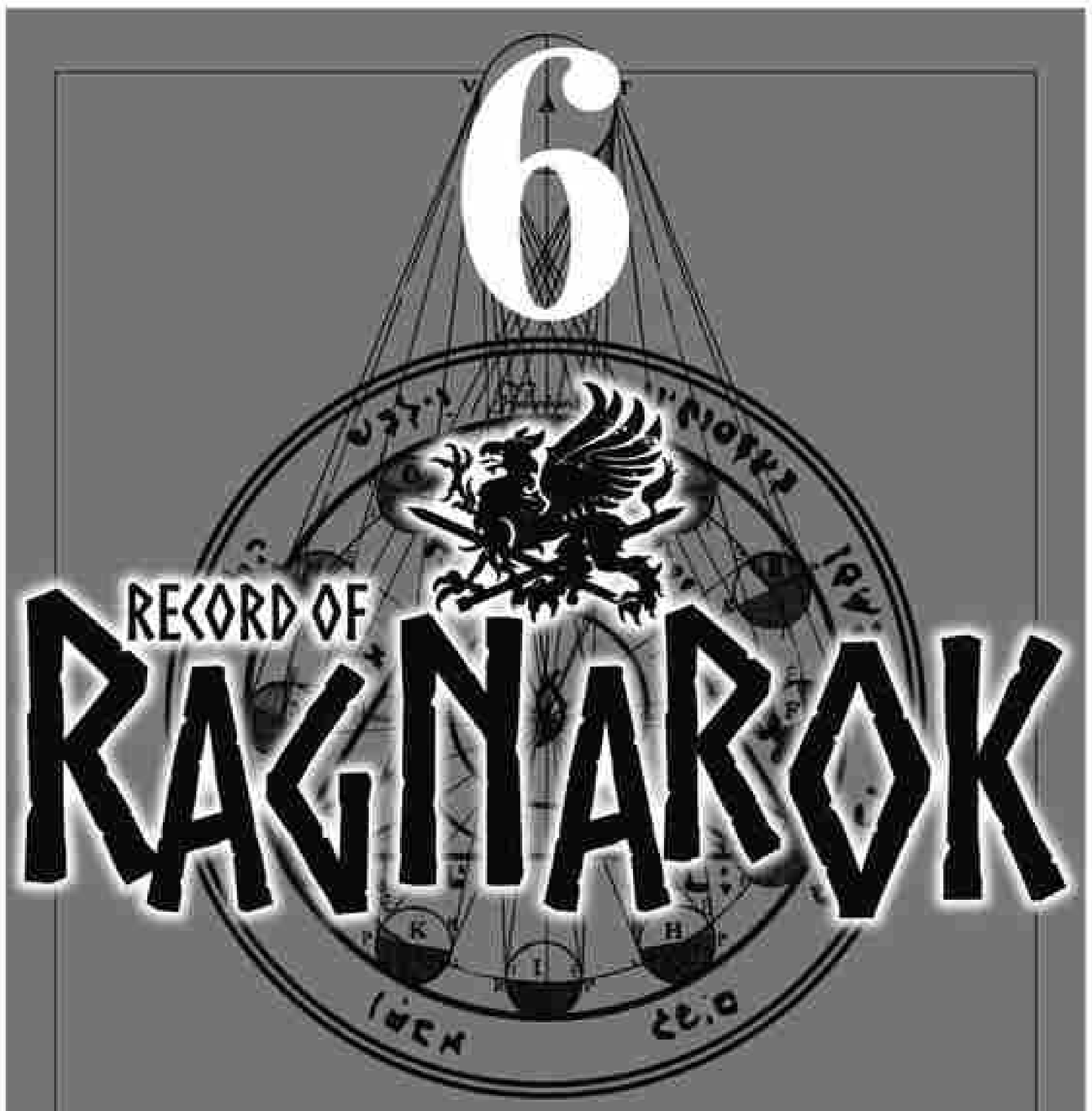


22
Heracles's Choice
003

23
The Indomitable Hero
037

24
The 12 Labors
075

25
Birth of a Monster
129

HOW UNEXPECTED! IT WASN'T THE LEGENDARY HERO WHO MADE THE FIRST MOVE.

WHOA...

BLOW

...IT WAS THE SERIAL KILLER!

GRR

IN-STEAD ...

CHAPTER 22: HERACLES'S CHOICE

...HAS PIERCED A DIVINE BODY!

THE MALICE OF HUMAN-ITY...

HE ACTUALLY PULLED ONE OVER ON A GOD!

THERE'S NO DOUBT.

...OF HUMAN MALICE!

HE'S THE PERSONI-FICATION OF SEVEN MILLION YEARS...

...

JACK THE RIPPER!

GOD BLESS YOU.

THE PERSONI-FICATION OF MALICE ...?

GRIP

SHK SHK

...

SHK

ZSS

KT

NK

IF *THIS* IS YOUR MALICE...

GRIP

KKOOSH

PWOP

I'LL SIMPLY CRUSH IT!

...

SHF

...

RAAA

YAAH

SWIRL

UH-OH... HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU NOW?

FWOOSH

AH

OUR GREEK FRIEND...

...SEEMS TO BE IN TROUBLE.

QUIET.

AND AFTER TALKING SUCH A BIG GAME!

OH

...ABSOLUTE FAITH IN HERACLES!

I HAVE...

KCHK

IT'S SHOWTIME!

FWP FWP FWP FWP

TAK TAK TAK TAK

THP THP THP THP

TAK TAK TAK TAK

THP THP THP THP

THUD THUD THUD

A STORM OF BLADES ASSAULTS HERACLES!

BUT NOTHING'S GETTING THROUGH HIS IMPREG-NABLE DEFENSE!

THUD

THUD

ZWIP

ZWIP

ZWIP

ZWIP

KRAK

KRAK

THP

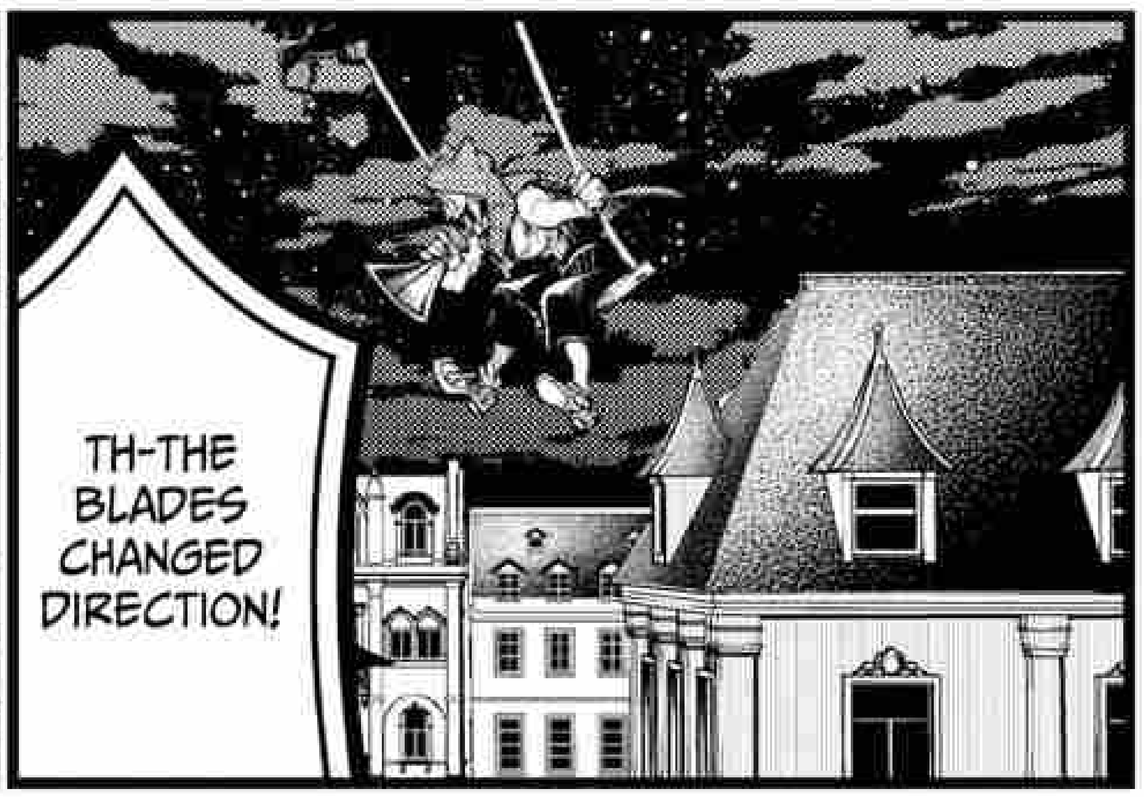
CHOK

CHOK

CHOK

THP

THP



HERACLES IS HAVING TROUBLE REACTING TO THE UN-PREDICTABLE MOVEMENTS OF JACK'S BLADES!

A FASTBALL, A CURVE, A SPLITTER, A SLIDER...

...IS TOTALLY ON THE DEFENSIVE!

TH- THE ALL-POWERFUL HERACLES...

RAAAAA

LOOK AT HIM! HERACLES IS SCARED!

DO IT, JACK! CUT HIM UP!

YEAH! LET'S SEE A SECOND GOD DIE!

HMPH

YEAH

RAAH

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, HUMANS!

SCARED?

ZHK IK

SPL ATCH

!

SHF

BOOM

ZWP

ZWP

ZWP

ZWP

ZWP

EVEN UNDER THIS HEAVY ATTACK, HERACLES HAS BEEN ADVANCING ONE STEP AT A TIME!

H-HE'S NOT JUST DEFEND-ING...

HE'S CLOSING IN ON JACK!

THE ESSENCE OF HERACLES'S STRENGTH ISN'T BRUTE FORCE...

WOW...

...THAT NOT EVEN THE GODS COULD BREAK!

IT'S HIS UNWAVERING HEART. A HEART...

THEBES
2000 BCE
(APPROX.)

HOW DID THE INDOMITABLE HERACLES...

...BECOME A GOD?

THWAK

LET GO OF IT!

CASTOR!

WE DON'T CARE!

BOOT

I'M GOING TO TRADE IT FOR MEDICINE FOR MY MOTHER!

N-NO! NOT *THIS* COW!

BEFORE HE WAS HERACLES...

LEAVE HIM ALONE!

...HE WAS JUST A BOY NAMED ALCIDES.

STAY...

...BACK!

A-ALCIDES...

HUH?

THUMP

ALCIDES
(LATER HERACLES)

I'LL TAKE YOU GUYS ON!

SO SCRAWNY

...

...

HE WAS THE SKINNIEST KID IN TOWN.

THUMP

WHAK

...

THEY GOT US PRETTY GOOD, HUH? NO SURPRISE...

I HAD TO.

WHAT THOSE GUYS WERE DOING WAS WRONG!

WHY DID YOU JUMP IN LIKE THAT? YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT THAT STRONG.

I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF ME!

NNGH

...OR JUST REALLY STUPID?

ALCIDES... ARE YOU REALLY NICE...

I'LL ALWAYS BE...

...ON THE SIDE OF THE RIGHTEOUS!

THAT FRAIL BOY...

TO GET YOUR COW BACK!

WHERE ELSE?

SWF

GO WHERE? WE'RE A MESS.

C'MON. LET'S GO!

BUMP

OH, ALCIDES...

...HAD THE STRONGEST AND MOST RIGHTEOUS HEART.

WHETHER IN A FIGHT...

...OR ON A HUNT...

KRAK

KRAK

BGWAOO

ZHF

...ALCIDES, WITH HIS FRAIL BODY...

RAAAAGH!

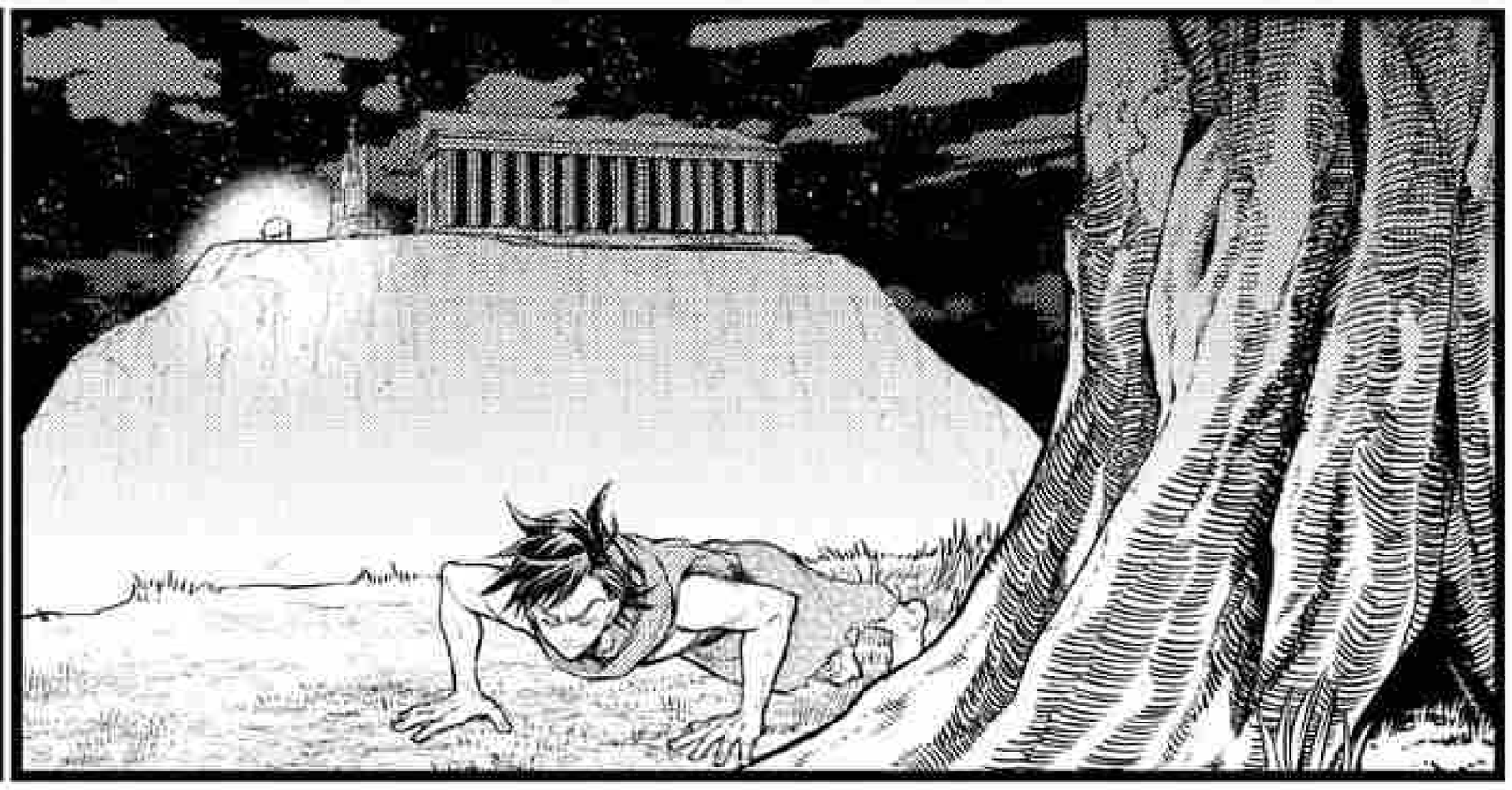
...ALWAYS LED THE WAY FOR THE RIGHTEOUS.

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT NONE WILL GO HUNGRY.

WE HAVEN'T EATEN LIKE THIS IN A LONG TIME.

THANK YOU, LORD ZEUS, FOR THIS BOUNTY YOU PROVIDE.

SWP



CAS-
TOR...
FWUP
HERE.
EAT.

THERE
HE IS.
THE BIG-
MOUTHED
HERO.

YOU
CAN'T GET
STRONG IF
YOU DON'T
EAT.

I HAVE
TO GET
STRONGER.
BE MORE
USEFUL.
I DON'T
DESERVE
TO EAT!

SO YOU WANNA BE STRONG, ALCIDES?

WELL THEN...

HEH HEH!

WE HEARD WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

WHY DON'T YOU GO DRINK THAT!

IT'S SAID THAT ACHILLES RECEIVED HIS INVINCIBLE BODY AFTER DRINKING AMBROSIA.

ZEUS'S BLOOD. ALSO KNOWN AS ***AMBROSIA.***

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, WHEN A TRUE HERO DRINKS IT, THEY ARE GRANTED IMMORTALITY. BUT IF IT'S DRUNK BY A FALSE HERO, DEATH IS IMMEDIATE.

DON'T MIND THEM. IT'S JUST A LEGEND.

YOU'RE RIGHT!

HA HA HA

DON'T GIVE HIM ANY IDEAS. HE'LL DIE FOR SURE!

...

FWMP

I KNOW.

CHO

MP

THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING STRONGER...

...IF I'M JUST GONNA DIE.

STRONGER!

STRONGER...

...CAME TO A CROSS-ROADS, WITHOUT HESITATION ...

IF THE BOY...

...IF IT GAVE HIM THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT THE RIGHTEOUS.

...HE WOULD CHOOSE THE DIFFICULT PATH...

SOON THE DAY CAME...

... THE ONCE-FRAIL BOY ANY LONGER.

...WHEN NO ONE DARED TEASE...

HOWEVER, IN 2,000 BCE...

THE HUMAN EXTINCTION CONFERENCE

74%

YES

26%

NO

NO

...HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF MY FELLOW GODS.

I'D LIKE TO...

...CONTINUE TO EXIST?

THE VOTES ARE IN. ARE WE *SURE* WE WANT TO LET HUMANITY...

ZEUS
CHAIRMAN

THEY CONTINUE TO START WARS AND WIPE OUT ENTIRE SPECIES.

MAYBE WE SHOULD PUNISH THEM *A LITTLE.* ESPECIALLY...

HMM...

APHRODITE

PIP

...THE PEOPLE OF THEBES.

BING

LET'S DO IT!

LOKI

OOH...

LIKE WHAT WE DID TO THE TOWER OF BABEL?

LOKI, IF WE DO IT YOUR WAY, WE MAY WIPE OUT *EVERYTHING.*

HUP

...

...

LET *ME* HANDLE IT THIS TIME.

POP

POP

SNAP

SHIVA

WOOM

IF I MAY...

HUH?!

BAM

ALLOW ME, ARES, TO TAKE COMMAND.

THEBES IS *OUR* TERRI-TORY...

...WHENEVER IT WAS DECIDED THE POPU-LATION OF HUMANITY HAD GROWN TOO LARGE.

...THE GODS OFTEN WIPED OUT ENTIRE CIVILIZA-TIONS...

IN ANCIENT TIMES, WHEN HUMANITY AND THE GODS WERE STILL CLOSE...

GONG

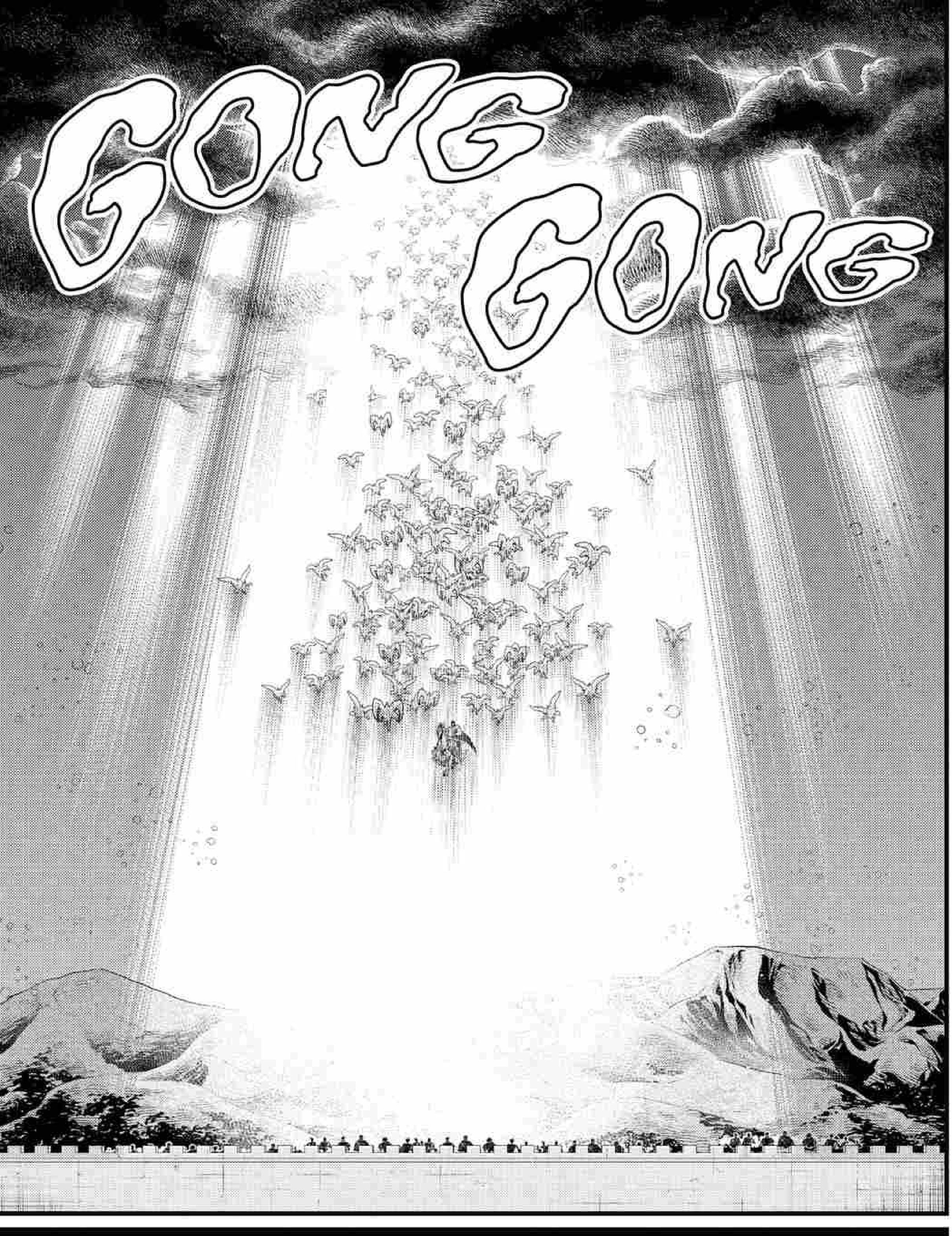
GONG

GONG

GONG

THE GODS ARE ANGRY.

TH-THE END HAS COME.



THAT YEAR, A DIVINE ARMY
DESCENDED UPON THEBES.

PEOPLE OF THEBES. YOU MUST ATONE FOR YOUR SINFUL LIVES.

SURRENDER YOUR-SELVES...

...TO THE JUSTICE OF THE GODS.

CHAPTER 22 - END